

ABSTRACT

The invention provides an ependymin-like protein derived a mammal, or its partial peptide or its precursor protein, or a salt thereof; a signal peptide; a DNA coding for the protein, etc. a recombinant vector; a transformant; a method of producing the protein; a pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein, etc. or DNA, an antibody against the protein, etc.; and a method for screening and a screening kit for compounds promoting the function of the protein. The protein, its partial peptide or a salt thereof has physiological activities such as a nerve-extending or nerve-regenerating activity, a gliocyte stimulating activity, and so on. The protein, etc. or the DNA is useful as a therapeutic or prophylactic agent for Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), dementia or cerebellar degeneration. The antibody against the protein, etc. can be used in the assay of the protein, etc. in a test sample. Furthermore, the protein, etc. is useful as a screening reagent for compounds or their salts capable of promoting the function of the protein.